

## Additional Foster Care Resources

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- The Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center  
<http://wifostercareandadoption.org>
- Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association  
<http://www.wfapa.org>
- National Foster Parent Association  
<http://www.nfpaonline.org>
- International Foster Care Organization  
<http://www.ifco.info>
- Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Website  
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/fostercare>

## Interested in Foster Care or Respite Care?

If you are interested in Foster Care or Respite Care and would like additional information, or would like to apply to become a foster parent or respite care provider please contact:

**Kayla Heck, CSW**

**Foster Care/ Kinship Care Coordinator**

**608-847-9288**

**[kheck@co.juneau.wi.us](mailto:kheck@co.juneau.wi.us)**

## Juneau County Department of Human Services

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220 E. LaCrosse St. Rm 23.  
Mauston, WI 53948  
Phone: (608) 847-2400  
Fax: (608) 847-9576

Hours:  
Monday-Friday  
8: 00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Juneau County Department of Human Services

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## Foster Care Program

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There are approximately 7000 children in the Wisconsin Foster Care System. The children's ages range between the ages of 0 and 21.

## **What is Foster Care?**

Foster Care is home-like care provided by a licensed foster parent for children who cannot live with their parents or their primary caretaker. Children are placed in foster care for various reasons including but not limited to:

- A child who has been neglected
- A child who has been abused
- A child whose parent or caretaker is in jail or is hospitalized and has no one to care for them during their parent or caretaker's absence
- A child who has committed a delinquent act
- A child who has significant medical or mental health needs that their parents or caretakers cannot or will not meet

Foster Care is usually a temporary situation that gives parents or caretakers time to make necessary changes to their home or life so that their child can safely return home. Most children in foster care return home, which is called reunification. If children are unable to return home, they find permanency through other options including adoption, guardianship, etc.

## **Requirements to Become a Foster Parent**

To become a foster parent, you must meet all of the following:

- You must be 21 years of age or older
- Be a responsible adult
- Cooperate with the agency
- Complete an application
- Complete and pass a criminal background check on all adult household members and any children in the home 12 years of age and older
- Be free of physical or mental conditions that would interfere with providing care for a foster child
- Have a stable income sufficient to meet the foster family's obligations
- Have vehicle liability insurance
- Have homeowner's or renter's liability insurance
- Your home must meet all of the physical environment requirements
- Complete foster home licensing requirements as listed in Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter DCF 56

## **Training Requirements**

Each foster parent is required to complete training in relation to their Level of Care certification. Training requirements fall into three categories:

- Pre-Placement
- Initial Licensing
- Ongoing

## **Foster Care Payments**

Foster Parents receive a monthly foster care payment to reimburse for the care of the foster child in their home, called the Uniform Foster Care Rate. Each child's rate is different and can be explained in the Uniform Foster Care Rate Brochure.

## **Respite Care**

Respite Care is when a foster child is cared for by a certified provider during the foster parent's planned absence. Foster Parents receive 48 hours of respite per month per child.